

## Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2032

### DECISION STATEMENT

#### IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION 18 OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2012 (AS AMENDED)

Date: XXXXXXXX

#### Summary

Following the Examination of the Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan and the receipt of the Examiner's Report, Peak District National Park Authority ('The Authority') accepts the modifications to the Plan as recommended by the Examiner. The Plan, as modified in accordance with the attached table, will then proceed to referendum.

The area for the referendum boundary should be the Neighbourhood Area as designated by the Peak District National Park Authority on 13 September 2013 and by High Peak Borough Council on 24 October 2013, under paragraph 61F of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

Background documents can be viewed on High Peak Borough Council's website at:

[Whaley Bridge and Furness Vale Neighbourhood area - High Peak Borough Council](#)

To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 a referendum will be held in the area formally designated as the Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Area. The referendum will pose the question "*Do you want High Peak Borough Council and the Peak District National Park Authority to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Whaley Bridge to help them decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?*"

If approved at referendum, Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory development plan and will be used by the Authority, alongside the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, for determining applications for development within that part of Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Area that is within the National Park.

#### Background

The Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Development Plan ('the Plan') relates to the area designated by High Peak Borough Council (on 24 October 2013) and the Peak District National Park Authority (on 13 September 2013) as a neighbourhood area.

The Pre-Submission Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan underwent consultation in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) ('the Regulations') between 20 May until 2 July 2022.

Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Forum submitted a draft plan to the Authority and HPBC on 13 December 2022. The submitted Plan was publicised under Regulation 16, and representations were invited between 11 May and 22 June 2023.

Mr Christopher Collison BA (Hons) MBA MRTPI MIED IHBC was appointed with the consent of the Authority and Whaley Bridge Town Council to undertake the examination of the Plan, and to prepare a report of the independent examination. The examination was conducted through written representations.

The Examiner's report was received on the 1 September 2023. It concludes that the Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan, subject to recommended modifications, meets the basic conditions set out in the legislation and can proceed to referendum.

### **Decision**

The Regulations require that the Local Planning Authorities publishes how they intend to respond to the Examiner's recommendations.

The Authority has considered each of the recommendations made in the Examiner's Report, the reasons for them and has decided to accept modifications to the draft plan as set out in Appendix 1 of this Decision Statement. These changes are necessary to ensure that the draft plan meets the basic conditions and legal requirements. The same recommendation will be considered at the HPBC Committee on 25 October 2023.

The submitted plan was accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report, and a Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report. None of the modifications set out in Appendix 1 are considered to necessitate revisiting any of these assessments.

HPBC and the Authority agree:

- 1) a formal decision statement is published detailing the response to the Examiner's recommendations within his report
- 2) following the inclusion of the Examiner's recommended modifications into the Plan (as set out in Appendix 1), it is approved that the Plan meets the Basic Conditions such that it can proceed to a referendum;
- 3) the referendum boundary is approved and will cover the designated Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Area only; and
- 4) HPBC's Electoral Services Manager be instructed to conduct a referendum on the Plan.